



GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM

Ernie Fletcher
Governor

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Mark L. Miller
Governor's Representative

June 30, 2006

Dear Law Enforcement Executive:

With the recent passage of a primary seat belt law, we are presented a unique opportunity to educate Kentucky motorists who are resistant to buckling up. On July 12, 2006, Kentucky's law enforcement officers will be enforcing a newly established primary seat belt law, KRS 189.125(6). This new law will allow law enforcement officers to stop people who they observe not wearing their seat belts while travelling in a vehicle on Kentucky's roadways. The new law effectively establishes the officers viewing of an unbelted motor vehicle occupant as probable cause to initiate traffic stops. No other violation is required in order for a Kentucky law enforcement officer to take enforcement action in an effort to reduce our rising fatality rate.

Legislators have a strong desire for the citizens of the Commonwealth to become educated about the benefits of buckling up. A warning phase was established by statute to facilitate public education. This "Courtesy Warning" phase will begin July 12, 2006 and continue until 24:00 hours December 31, 2006. The new legislation clearly directs that during this educational grace period, no seat belt citations shall be issued. Only "Courtesy Warnings" shall be issued, and those warnings must clearly provide a summary of the new primary belt law, the penalties and grace period, as well as providing information that details the benefits of safety belt use.

Courtesy Warning books are currently being printed by Kentucky Correctional Industries (KCI) with initial shipment expected just days prior to the new primary seat belt law implementation. KCI's inmate workforce and correctional staff have been working diligently with design, printing, binding and delivery being completed in a matter of weeks instead of the three to four months that is the norm. Everyone is doing their part in an effort to save lives across Kentucky.

The Governor's Highway Safety Program, in coordination with the Kentucky State Police, will begin distribution of the KSP-207 (7-12-06) "Courtesy Warning" forms to state and local law enforcement agencies as soon as shipments are received from KCI. The distribution of forms to local agencies will be made from each affected post. All agencies and post should continue to utilize their current courtesy notice forms, KSP-208, or equivalent for seat belt warnings until sufficient supplies of the new KSP-207 are obtained from KCI for distribution.

A draft copy of the "Courtesy Warning" KSP-207 (7-12-06) and a copy of the Courtesy Warning book cover has been attached for your review. Please note that the form is full size and was designed to be officer friendly. Each warning is serialized and contains a carbon copy. Each affected local and state agency should ensure that every completed Courtesy Warning book is collected and returned to the Governor's Highway Safety Program as noted on the cover of the book.

Please encourage your officers to utilize these warnings as a positive way to modify driver behavior and develop public support for seat belt use. The committed can not be deterred, law enforcement working together can make Kentucky a safer place to live and travel. Primary seat belt enforcement is projected to save 67 lives in its first year of implementation and is an important first step toward reducing motor vehicle fatalities and "Securing Kentucky's Future."

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 502-695-6213. Thank you for your ongoing support and participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lt. Eric Walker", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Lt. Eric Walker
Commander

Enclosures